

HEBETULA, A NEW GENUS OF THE PREDACEOUS MIDGE
TRIBE SPHAEROMIINI (DIPTERA: CERATOPOGONIDAE)

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Abstract.—*Hebetula*, new genus (type-species: *Mixohelea lemur* Debenham), is proposed for some Australasian and Ethiopian predaceous midges previously placed in *Mixohelea* Kieffer because of a nomenclatural procedure in which *Mixohelea* had been synonymized with *Xenohelca* Kieffer. A check list is presented for the 19 species of *Hebetula*.

In her recent revision of the Australian and New Guinean Ceratopogonidae of the tribes Heteromyiini and Sphaeromiini (Debenham, 1974), the junior author made the following statement (p. 18): "I have followed Wirth and Ratanaworabhan (personal communication) in assigning the Australian Region species formerly placed in *Xenohelca* to the genus *Mixohelea*. *Mixohelea* was placed in synonymy with *Xenohelca* by Macfie (1940), but Wirth and Ratanaworabhan have confirmed that the two are distinct, and the name *Xenohelca* should be applied only to those species with the thorax pollinose, and the fourth tarsomere cylindrical, and the batomets of the fifth tarsomere scattered along its length." This separation of *Mixohelea* and *Xenohelca* was published by Wirth, Ratanaworabhan and Blanton (1974, p. 610) in couplet 46 of their key to the genera of Ceratopogonidae.

When Kieffer erected the genus *Mixohelea* (1917b), he assigned to it five species, without designating a type-species: *Palpomyia polysticta* Kieffer, *P. pulchripes* Kieffer, and *P. roseiventris* Kieffer from India, *Sphaeromyias hexacantha* Kieffer from the Seychelles, and *M. australiensis* nom. nov. (for *Palpomyia imparunguis* Kieffer non Becker) from New Guinea. The first three of these species, according to Kieffer's descriptions, belong in *Xenohelca*, as based on the type-species, *X. pruinosa* Kieffer (by original designation), and as characterized by Wirth, Ratanaworabhan and Blanton (1974) in their key. The remaining two species, *hexacantha* and *australiensis*, key out to *Mixohelea* Kieffer.

However Wirth (1973) had previously selected as the type-species of *Mixohelea* one of the three Indian species, *pulchripes* (Kieffer), thereby sinking *Mixohelea* again into synonymy with *Xenohelca*. When he discovered the unfortunate results of this action, that volume of the *Catalog of the Diptera of the Oriental Region* was already in the press, and the action could not conveniently be changed. Now it is necessary to provide a new generic name for *hexacantha* (K.), *australiensis* (K.), and the other Australian and New Guinean species placed by Debenham (1974) in *Mixohelea*. For these species we propose the name *Hebetula* (Latin

hebes, -*etis* = dull, hence "little dull one"). We are grateful to Mr. George Steyskal of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, for suggesting the form of the new generic name. Of the 19 known species of *Hebetula*, 17 are Australasian and 2 are Ethiopian, whereas of the 12 known species of *Xenohoelea*, 10 are Oriental and 2 are Ethiopian.

Hebetula Wirth and Debenham, new genus

Type-species, *Mixohoelea lemur* Debenham, 1974.

Mixohoelea Kieffer (in part), 1971b:364.

Mixohoelea sensu Debenham, 1974:16; Wirth, Ratanaworabhan, and Blanton, 1974:610.

Diagnosis.—The diagnosis is that of *Mixohoelea* sensu Debenham, 1974. *Hebetula* differs from *Xenohoelea* in lacking pollinosity on the thorax, in having the 4th tarsomere cordiform, and in having the batonnets restricted to the base of the 5th tarsomere in the female.

Included Species—all are new combinations

armiger (Debenham), 1974:20 (*Mixohoelea*). Queensland.

atypipennis (Tokunaga), 1966:127 (*Palpomyia*). West Irian.

australiensis (Kieffer), 1917b:364 (*Mixohoelea*; new name for *Palpomyia imparunguis* Kieffer which is preoccupied in *Palpomyia* by *imparunguis* Becker). New Guinea.

bequaerti (Goetghebuer), 1933:151 (*Palpomyia*). Congo.

bisulca (Debenham), 1974:24 (*Mixohoelea*). Western Australia.

centonis (Debenham), 1974:21 (*Mixohoelea*). Queensland.

gladiator (Debenham), 1974:24 (*Mixohoelea*). Australian Cap. Terr.

hexacantha (Kieffer), 1911:343 (*Sphaeromyias*). Seychelles.

infirmior (Debenham), 1974:28 (*Mixohoelea*). New South Wales.

latifrons (Debenham), 1974:29 (*Mixohoelea*). Queensland.

lemur (Debenham), 1974:32 (*Mixohoelea*). Western Australia.

luctus (Debenham), 1974:31 (*Mixohoelea*). New South Wales.

maai (Tokunaga), 1966:115 (*Xenohoelea*). West Irian.

muroides (Debenham), 1974:30 (*Mixohoelea*). New South Wales.

novaebritannica (Tokunaga), 1966:130 (*Palpomyia*). New Britain.

sarmensis (Tokunaga), 1966:116 (*Xenohoelea*). West Irian.

sensilis (Debenham), 1974:27 (*Mixohoelea*). New South Wales.

tonnoiri (Lee), 1948:66 (*Xenohoelea*). Tasmania.

versicolor (Debenham), 1974:35 (*Mixohoelea*). Western Australia.

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